(a) Ensuring abundant availability at reasonable prices within the country of good quality essential pharmaceuticals of mass consumption.

(b) Strenghening the indigenous capability for cost effective quality production and exports of pharmaceuticals by reducing barriers to trade in the pharmaceutical sector.

(c) Strengthening the system of quality control over drug and pharmaceutical production and distribution to make quality an essential attribute of the Indian pharmaceutical industry and promoting rational use of pharmaceuticals.

(d) Encouraging R&D in the pharmaceutical sector in a manner compatible with the country's needs and with particular focus on diseases endemic or relevant to India by creating an environment conducive to channelising a higher level of investment into R&D in pharmaceuticals in India.

(e) Creating an incentive framework for the pharmaceutical industry which promotes new investment into pharmaceutical industry and encourages the introduction of new technologies and new drugs.

Financial performance of Fertilizer Units

3968. SHRI GAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Group of Ministers has recommended closure of a large number of fertilizers units in the country;

(b) if so, the details of these units, the financial performance of each of them during the last three years and the number of workers employed by each of them; and

(c) whether there have been any arrears of wages and other statutory dues to the employees, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) and (b) A Group of Ministers (GOM) has been set up in June, 2001 to examine the rehabilitation/ restructuring proposals of the four sick Fertilizer Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) of Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Ltd. (HFC), Fertilizer Corporation of India Ltd. (FCI),. Projects & Development India Ltd. (PDIL) and Pyrites, Phosphates and Chemicals Ltd. (PPCL). The recommendations are to be

submitted to the competent authority in the Government. The losses incurred by the sick fertilizer PSUs during the last three years and the work force employed by them is given below:—

(Rs. Crore)

PSU	Losses incurred			Work Force Employed as on 31.3.2002
	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02 (RE)	
Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Limited	564.23	767.72	803.28	6950
Fertilizer Coporation of India Limited	856.68	951.36	1068.35	6029
Projects & Development India Limited	19.88	32.66	35.92	1929
Pyrites, Phosphates & Chemicals Limited	70.18	108.30	91.18	1322

(c) Government has been extending budgetary support for meeting the expenditure on the salary and wages of the employees of the above sick fertilizer PSUs. However, PDIL has some dues of statutory payments towards provident fund.

Faulty Construction at Paradeep Fertilizer Plant

3969. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that hundreds of workers are dying at Fertilizer plant at Paradeep, due to faulty construction by the Oswal Company.

(b) whether Government are also aware that the Oswal Company is not following the health and safety rules, which are mandatory under the law; and